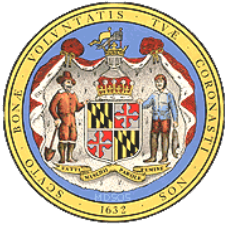


Justice Reinvestment Advisory Board



Location: <https://meet.google.com/ehw-jvas-joj>

Date: November 16, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Minutes:

- **Introductions**
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
- **Member Updates**
 - **Oversight Board Updates** - Daniel Atzmon
 - **Workgroups**
 - **Expungements**
 - Overview of effort focused on narrow question of removing employment barriers and collateral consequences due to non-conviction criminal histories
 - **Restitution**
 - Large effort related to years of previous efforts to improve restitution. Focusing on immediate steps that can be taken to improve collection through interagency collaboration and learning from DJS. Also working on coordinating a larger strategy to overhaul a system based on antiquated IT.
 - Workgroup also considering setting more realistic restitution amounts and schedules and support obligors with relevant services
 - Michele Hughes- This year's General Assembly session will be very focused and narrow. Limited access into buildings and focus will mostly be on covid and policing with two big bills in each house introduced by leadership.
- **DPSCS Update** - Donna Rojas
 - Introduction of Donna Rojas, DPSCS's new Reentry Director. Previously at Montgomery County Department of Corrections.
 - Focused on the 'why' or underlying challenges. This informed our decision to combine

reentry and social work units, so we can get people as much help as possible.

- The department is using a holistic approach by putting together these two very important departments. Interested in trauma services and other social supports
- Daniel noted that other guests, MDH & OOC are good partners on these issues.
- Donna served on the women's committee in Montgomery County and on the Human Trafficking task force so i understand these issues, especially trauma and victimizations well
- DPSCS is working to make sure we have good hand offs in the community to prevent recidivism.
 - Ned information ahead of time for facilitation between DPSCS and partners

- **Opioid Operational Command Center Update - Steve Schuh**

- Overdose epidemic continues despite the pandemic. OOC is focused on prevention for children, supporting parents as well as treatment and recovery.
- Overall stats are increasing, 1326 fatalities during the first half of the year. Biggest increase in 2nd Quarter, in line with trends across the country. 2019 was encouraging with a decline so this is very disappointing. Many more deaths from overdose than from Covid-19. We are currently on pace for worst year on record from Maryland.
- Opioids account for 90% of deaths, thats been consistent for a long time. Fentanyl involved in 93% of opioid related fatalities. There has been an uptick in prescription opioid deaths as well. We saw a decline in heroin, a long term trend, as its being elbowed out by fentanyl.
- Cocaine deaths and alcohol deaths are rising, along with methamphetamine. This generally suggests that substance use is increasing across the board. 68% of deaths involve non-opioids so we can't take our eyes off the ball.
- Current efforts guided by Covid-19 action plan. We have a Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) summit this week. SIM allows us to focus on the right places in the criminal justice system.
- We are also focusing on ACES and helping to develop a plan for statewide integration of ACES into programming. ACES helps us better understand the interventions we need based on brain science.
- Why have overdose deaths increased?
 - Mostly due to the conditions of the pandemic which increase isolations and cut people off from support and services from group meetings to counseling. Loneliness and isolation all exacerbate the range of behavioral health conditions. We have also been doing a good job with naran use and distribution.

- **Maryland Department of Health Center for Harm Reduction Services Update**

- The Center coordinates multiple programs for people who use drugs across multiple funding streams these include:
 - Syringe Service Programs, overdose response programs including EMS leave behind and Naloxone distribution in jails and prisons.
 - The Center also manages the access grant, centralized naloxone purchasing and training, training and development for the harm reduction workforce, and community education to reduce stigma and promote evidence based practices.
- Strategic goal is to reduce deaths and morbidity by meeting people where they are, being client centred, comprehensive, and removing barriers to care. The Center tries to be responsive to emerging needs and to prioritize the voices of people with lived experience.
- The Center is trying to adapt during the pandemic, working with BHA to get fentanyl test strips at various locations, and working with an OCCC grant to expand telehealth.

- **Open Forum**

- Discussion of Covid-19 and related challenges with communication, sharing best practices, and getting various agencies to implement safety measures.